

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 032245 TOSEC 030061

NODIS
CHEROKEE

FOLLOWING TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE FROM AMMAN FEB 10:

QUOTE S E C R E T AMMAN 0719

NODIS/CHEROKEE

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: MASS, JO, UR
SUBJECT: TALK WITH KING -- REPORT ON SOVIET VISIT

1. KING HUSSEIN HAS REQUESTED THAT I FORWARD TO YOU IN
SECURE CHANNEL LONG REPORT (IN SEPTTEL) ON JORDANIAN AIR
FORCE MISSION TO SOVIET UNION. REPORT DWELLS AT LENGTH
ON TECHNICAL MILITARY DETAILS AND IS LARGELY FOR THE RECORD.
I DO NOT BELIEVE YOU NEED TO TAKE TIME TO READ IT. BASIC
THRUST OF REPORT IS THAT DURING JORDANIAN JANUARY 26-
FEBRUARY 2 VISIT TO MOSCOW A HIGH LEVEL SOVIET
MILITARY GROUP SHBWED JORDANIAN AIR FORCE
DELEGATION HEAVY LIGT HELICOPTERS, MIG-21 AND MIG-23
AIRCRAFT AND SAM 2, 4 AND 6 AND SA-7 MISSILES. SOVIETS
PROMISED EARLY DELIVERY OF HELICOPTERS AND OTHER EQUIPMENT

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ON GOOD TERMS IF JORDANIANS SHOULD DECIDE TO ACQUIRE THEM.

2. REPORT SAID SOVIETS OFFERED TO PROVIDE "EVERYTHING" JORDAN WANTS AND IMPLIED THAT INCLUDED EVEN EQUIPMENT CURRENTLY UNDER DEVELOPMENT. JORDANIANS SAID THEY WANTED PARTICULARLY TO EXPLORE TYPES OF SOVIET EQUIPMENT CAPABLE OF MATCHING WHAT ISRAEL IS LIKELY TO RECEIVE IN COMING YEARS. SOVIETS SAID REPEATEDLY THAT KING HUSSEIN SHOULD CONTACT BREZHNEV AT "POLITICAL LEVEL" (PRESUMABLY DURING KING'S MAY VISIT TO USSR) WITH LIST OF NEEDS AND FINANCIAL CONDITIONS. KING SAYS HE WANTS TO DISCUSS SOVIET OFFER WITH YOU FRANKLY DURING HIS MARCH VISIT TO U.S.

3. COMMENT: SOVIETS ARE CLEARLY MAKING A BIG PLAY TO INTRODUCE MILITARY EQUIPMENT INTO JORDAN. THEY CAME CLOSE TO TELLING JORDANIANS THAT THEY SUPPORT JORDAN'S PARTICIPATION IN NEGOTIATION IN A ROLE WHICH APPEARS TO CONTRADICT PAST HEAVY SOVIET SUPPORT FOR PLO AS NEGOTIATOR FOR PALESTINIANS. IT IS CLEAR ALSO THAT SOVIETS HAVE FASTENED ON SYRIAN-JORDANIAN RAPPROCHEMENT AS A DEVICE FOR TRYING TO EXPAND THEIR INFLUENCE HERE. KING IS GROSSLY INCONSISTENT IN HIS VIEW OF SOVIETS, SENDING YOU AND THE PRESIDENT ON THE ONE HAND AGONIZING LETTERS ABOUT THE DANGERS TO MOROCCO OF INCREASED SOVIET ARMS SUPPORT TO ALGERIA AND ON THE OTHER, GIVING ME A REPORT ON HIS OWN TEAM'S VISIT TO MOSCOW THE SAME EVENING WHICH AT A MINIMUM IMPLIES HE ENJOYS THIS SORT OF SEDUCTION. HIS OWN MOOD IS ONE OF WORRY. IN RUNNING OVER THIS REPORT WITH ME, HE WAS CLEARLY NERVOUS AND UPSET. MY IMPRESSION IS THAT HE WANTS THE EQUIPMENT THE SOVIETS HAVE TO OFFER AND LIKES THEIR TERMS, BUT IS LESS SURE THAT HE WANTS TO FACE THE CONSEQUENCES OF A SHIFT. IN MY VIEW THIS SORT OF MOOD OF HIS CALLS FOR CARROTS AND STICKS. WE SHOULD GIVE HIM NO OR LITTLE FURTHER REASON TO FEEL WE ARE AS UNRELIABLE AS HE NOW SEEMS INCLINED FROM TIME-TO-TIME TO ALLEGE WE ARE. WE HAVE IN OTHER CABLES PROVIDED SOME MORE CONCRETE EXAMPLES OF WHAT THIS SEEMS TO MEAN OR WOULD REQUIRE ON PEACE STEPS, HEAVY-LIFT HELICOPTERS, FIGHTER AIRCRAFT AND ASSISTANCE FOR MOROCCO. ON THE OTHER HAND, WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO PAINT A VERY BLEAK PICTURE FOR HIM OF WHAT THE
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SOVIET ALTERNATIVE REALLY MEANS. PICKERING UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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